

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air a program that although it has been proven to be false is being broadcast as news. It is harmful and a flagrant abuse of their corporate power. It is even worse given that they are abusing their corporate power by forcing stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election which shows that they are using their corporation status to push the agenda of individuals. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.